

JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICAL ANALYSIS AND APPLICATIONS 157, 568–576 (1991)

## Homoclinic Orbits on Compact Manifolds\*

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Received January 10, 1990

Under a suitable assumption on the potential energy  $V$ , we prove the existence of a homoclinic orbit of the equation  $D_t(x'(t)) + \text{grad } V(x(t)) = 0$ ,  $x \in M$ , where  $M$  is a compact Riemannian manifold.

Our assumption is satisfied, for instance, if the function  $V$  has a unique non-degenerate maximum point. © 1991 Academic Press, Inc.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this paper we study the existence of homoclinic orbits for a classical mechanical system constrained on a compact manifold.

Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a regular Riemannian manifold. We consider the differential equation

$$D_t(x'(t)) + \text{grad } V(x(t)) = 0, \quad (1.1)$$

where  $V \in C^2(\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $x'$  is the derivative of the curve  $x(t)$ , and  $D_t(x')$  is the covariant derivative of  $x'$ .

(1.2) DEFINITION. A homoclinic orbit is a nonconstant curve solving (1.1) such that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} x(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x(t) = x_0$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} x'(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x'(t) = 0.$$

Note that  $x_0$  needs to be a critical point of  $V$ .

In order to state our result of this paper we need the following.

\* Work supported by MPI and GNAFA.

(1.3) *Notation.* If  $W$  is a function of class  $C^2$  on  $\mathcal{M}$ ,  $x \in \mathcal{M}$  and  $v \in T_x(\mathcal{M})$ .<sup>1</sup> We set

$$H_W(x)[v] = \frac{d^2}{dt^2} (W(\gamma(t)))|_{t=0},$$

where  $\gamma$  is a geodesic on  $\mathcal{M}$  (i.e.,  $D_t(\gamma'(t)) \equiv 0$ ) defined in a neighbourhood of  $t=0$  and such that  $\gamma(0)=x$ ,  $\gamma'(0)=v$ .

(1.4) **THEOREM.** *Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a compact Riemannian manifold of class  $C^2$ ,  $V \in C^2(\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{R})$ , and  $x_0$  the only maximum point of  $V$ . Assume that*

$$\exists \rho_0 > 0: H_V(x)[v] \leq 0 \quad \forall x: \text{dist}(x, x_0) \leq \rho_0, \quad \forall v \in T_x(\mathcal{M}). \quad (1.5)$$

*Then there exists a homoclinic motion such that*

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} x(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x(t) = x_0.$$

(1.6) *Remark.* If  $V$  has more than one maximum point the result of Theorem (1.4) is in general not true.

For example, let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a manifold in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  such that

$$B := \{(x_1, x_2, x_3): x_3 = 0, x_1^2 + x_2^2 \leq 1\} \subset \mathcal{M},$$

and  $V$  a function of class  $C^2$  such that  $V(x) \leq 0$  in  $B$  and  $V(x) = 0$  in  $\mathcal{M} \setminus B$ .

Therefore, any homoclinic orbit, if it exists lies in  $B$  and satisfies

$$x''(t) = F(x(t)), \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R},$$

where  $F = -\text{grad } V$ .

Now we suppose that

- (i)  $V$  is radially symmetric,
- (ii)  $0$  is the only critical point of  $V$  in  $\text{int}(B)$ .

By (i) it is easy to see that the angular momentum

$$M(x) = x \times x'$$

is preserved.

We argue indirectly and we suppose that  $x(t)$  is a homoclinic orbit such that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} x(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x(t) = x_0 \in \partial B.$$

<sup>1</sup>  $T_x(\mathcal{M})$  denotes the tangent plane to the manifold  $\mathcal{M}$  at  $x$ .

By Definition (1.2)

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} x'(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x'(t) = 0,$$

and hence  $M(x(t)) = 0$  for every  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .

This implies that  $x(t)$  lies on a straight line through the origin, so

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x(t) = -x_0,$$

and this is a contradiction.

(1.7) *Remark.* The assumption (1.5) is satisfied by a generic potential  $V$  since it holds when  $x_0$  is nondegenerate. However, we do not know if it can be removed.

(1.8) *Remark.* We recall that recently three other papers appeared on this subject. Rabinowitz in [3] studied the existence of homoclinic orbits on the  $N$ -dimensional torus and obtained also a multiplicity result.

In [1] Ekeland and Coti Zelati proved the existence of a homoclinic orbit of a nonautonomous periodic Hamiltonian system in  $\mathbb{R}^{2N}$ .

In [5] Tanaka proved the existence of a homoclinic orbit in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , in presence of a singular energy potential  $V$  verifying the strong force condition of Gordon and having a unique global maximum.

## 2. THE APPROXIMATION SCHEME

Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a compact Riemannian manifold. By a theorem of Whitney, we can suppose that  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  for  $N$  sufficiently large.

Let  $x_0 \in \mathcal{M}$ . We set

$$A^1(\mathcal{M}) = \{\gamma \in H^{1,2}(0, 1, \mathbb{R}^N) : \gamma(t) \in \mathcal{M}, \gamma(0) = \gamma(1) = x_0\}.$$

It is well known that  $A^1(\mathcal{M})$  is a Riemannian manifold with tangent plane at  $\gamma$  given by

$$T_\gamma A^1(\mathcal{M}) = \{v \in H^{1,2}(0, 1, \mathbb{R}^N) : v(t) \in T_{\gamma(t)}(\mathcal{M}), \forall t \in [0, 1], v(0) = v(1) = 0\}$$

and scalar product

$$(v, w) \rightarrow \int_0^1 \langle v(t), w(t) \rangle_{\gamma(t)} dt,$$

where  $v, w \in T_\gamma A^1(\mathcal{M})$  and  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_x$  ( $x \in \mathcal{M}$ ) is the Riemannian structure on  $\mathcal{M}$  (cf., e.g., [2]).

Let  $V \in C^2(\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $x_0$  the only maximum point of  $V$ ,  $h = V(x_0)$ , and  $\varepsilon > 0$ . We shall look for critical points for the functional  $f_\varepsilon \in C^2(\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{R})$  given by

$$f_\varepsilon(\gamma) = \int_0^1 \frac{1}{2} \langle \gamma', \gamma' \rangle_{\gamma(t)} (h + \varepsilon - V(\gamma)) dt. \quad (2.1)$$

Note that  $\frac{1}{2} \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_x (h + \varepsilon - V(x))$  is a Riemannian structure on  $\mathcal{M}$ . A critical point for  $f_\varepsilon$  is a curve  $\gamma \in A^1(\mathcal{M})$  such that

$$\langle \text{grad } f_\varepsilon(\gamma), v \rangle = 0, \quad \forall v \in T_\gamma(\mathcal{M}).$$

As it is essentially proved in [2] any critical point of  $f_\varepsilon$ ,  $\gamma$ , is a curve of class  $C^2$  such that  $\gamma(t) \in \mathcal{M}$ ,  $\forall t \in [0, 1]$ ,  $\gamma(0) = \gamma(1) = x_0$  and

$$\begin{aligned} D_t(\gamma'(t))(h + \varepsilon - V(\gamma)) - (\langle \text{grad } V(\gamma(t)), \gamma'(t) \rangle_{\gamma(t)} \gamma'(t) \\ + \frac{1}{2} \langle \gamma', \gamma' \rangle_{\gamma(t)} \text{grad } V(\gamma(t))) = 0, \quad \forall t \in [0, 1]. \end{aligned} \quad (2.2)$$

(2.3) *Remark.* Note that if  $\gamma$  verifies (2.2) we have

$$\frac{1}{2} \langle \gamma', \gamma' \rangle_{\gamma(t)} (h + \varepsilon - V(\gamma)) = c, \quad \forall t \in [0, 1],$$

and by the definition of  $f_\varepsilon$ ,  $c = f_\varepsilon(\gamma)$ .

In this section we shall prove the following

(2.4) **THEOREM.** Let  $x_0$  be the only maximum point for  $V$  and  $h = V(x_0)$ . Then for every  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists  $\gamma_\varepsilon \in C^2([0, 1], \mathcal{M})$  such that

$$\gamma_\varepsilon(0) = \gamma_\varepsilon(1) = x_0$$

$$\gamma_\varepsilon \text{ verifies (2.2),}$$

$$0 < \delta \leq f_\varepsilon(\gamma_\varepsilon) \leq M < +\infty,$$

where  $\delta$  and  $M$  do not depend on  $\varepsilon$  and  $f_\varepsilon$  as defined in (2.1).

*Proof.* Consider

$$c_\varepsilon = \inf_{\text{cat}(A) \geq 2} (\sup_A f_\varepsilon), \quad (2.5)$$

where  $A$  is a subset of  $A^1(\mathcal{M})$  and  $\text{cat}(A)$  denotes the Lusternik and Schnirelman category of  $A$  in the space  $A^1(\mathcal{M})$  (see [4]), i.e., the minimal number of closed contractible subset of  $A^1(\mathcal{M})$  which cover  $A$ .

It is well known that there are compact subset of  $A^1(\mathcal{M})$  such that

$\text{cat}(A)$  is arbitrarily large. Then there exists  $M \in \mathbb{R}^+$  (independent of  $\varepsilon$ ) such that

$$c_\varepsilon \leq M. \quad (2.6)$$

We claim that there exists  $\delta > 0$  independent of  $\varepsilon$  such that

$$f_\varepsilon^\delta := \{\gamma \in A^1(\mathcal{M}) : f_\varepsilon(\gamma) \leq \delta\}$$

is contractible on the constant curve  $x_0$ .

In fact let  $r > 0$  be a constant such that the set

$$B(x_0, r) := \{x \in \mathcal{M} : \text{dist}(x, x_0) \leq r\}$$

is contractible on  $x_0$ , and

$$\eta := \inf\{h - V(x) : x \notin B(x_0, r/2)\}$$

which is greater than zero because of our assumptions.

Now if there exists  $t \in [0, 1]$  such that  $\gamma(t) \notin B(x_0, r/2)$ , there exists  $t_0 \in [0, t[$  such that  $\text{dist}(\gamma(t_0), x_0) = r/2$  and  $\gamma(\tau) \notin B(x_0, r/2)$ ,  $\forall \tau \in ]t_0, t]$ . Moreover,

$$\text{dist}(\gamma(t), x_0) \leq (r/2) + \text{dist}(\gamma(t_0), \gamma(t)), \quad (2.7)$$

while

$$\begin{aligned} \text{dist}(\gamma(t_0), \gamma(t)) &\leq \left( \int_{t_0}^t \langle \gamma', \gamma' \rangle_{\gamma(\tau)} d\tau \right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq \left( \frac{2}{\eta} \int_{t_0}^t \frac{1}{2} \langle \gamma', \gamma' \rangle_{\gamma(\tau)} (h + \varepsilon - V(\gamma)) d\tau \right)^{1/2} \\ &\leq \left( \frac{2}{\eta} \int_0^1 \frac{1}{2} \langle \gamma', \gamma' \rangle_{\gamma(\tau)} (h + \varepsilon - V(\gamma)) d\tau \right)^{1/2} \\ &= \left( \frac{2}{\eta} f_\varepsilon(\gamma) \right)^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Then, by (2.7), if  $\gamma \in f_\varepsilon^\delta$  we have  $\text{dist}(\gamma(t), x_0) \leq (r/2) + ((2/\eta)\delta)^{1/2}$ .

At this point if we have  $((2/\eta)\delta)^{1/2} \leq (r/2)$ ,  $f_\varepsilon^\delta$  is contractible to the constant curve  $x_0$ . Therefore if  $\text{cat}(A) \geq 2$ ,  $\sup_A f_\varepsilon \geq \delta$  and

$$c_\varepsilon \geq \delta. \quad (2.8)$$

Now since  $h + \varepsilon - V(x) \geq \varepsilon > 0$  for every  $x \in \mathcal{M}$ , using standard argument (see, e.g., [2]) it is possible to prove that  $f_\varepsilon$  satisfies the Palais–Smale con-

dition (i.e., every sequence  $\gamma_n$  such that  $f_\varepsilon(\gamma_n) \rightarrow c \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\text{grad } f_\varepsilon(\gamma_n) \rightarrow 0$  has a converging subsequence).

Then  $c_\varepsilon$  defined by (2.5) is a critical level for  $f_\varepsilon$ ,<sup>2</sup> and by (2.6) and (2.8) we obtain the proof of (2.4). ■

### 3. PROOF OF THEOREM (1.4)

Let  $V \in C^2(\mathcal{M}, \mathbb{R})$  and  $x_0$  be the only maximum point of  $V$  and suppose that (1.5) holds. Let  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  such that  $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ , and  $|\cdot|$  the norm in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . According to the notation (1.3) if  $g(x) = \frac{1}{2} |x - x_0|^2$  we have

$$H_g(x)[v] = |v|^2, \quad \forall x \in \mathcal{M}, \quad \forall v \in T_x(\mathcal{M}),$$

so, by (1.5), the function  $V_\varepsilon(x) = V(x) - (\varepsilon/2) |x - x_0|^2$  (with  $\varepsilon > 0$ ) is such that

$$H_{V_\varepsilon}(x)[v] \leq -\varepsilon |v|^2, \quad \forall x: \text{dist}(x, x_0) \leq \rho_0, \quad \forall v \in T_x(\mathcal{M}). \quad (3.1)$$

Since  $x_0$  is the only maximum point for the function  $V_\varepsilon$  (with value  $h$ ) by Theorem (2.4) there exists  $\gamma_\varepsilon \in C^2([0, 1], \mathcal{M})$  such that

$$\gamma_\varepsilon(0) = \gamma_\varepsilon(1) = x_0, \quad (3.2)$$

$$D_t(\gamma'_\varepsilon(t))(h + \varepsilon - V_\varepsilon(\gamma_\varepsilon(t))) - (\langle \text{grad } V_\varepsilon(\gamma_\varepsilon(t)), \gamma'_\varepsilon(t) \rangle_{\gamma_\varepsilon(t)} \gamma'_\varepsilon(t) + \frac{1}{2} \langle \gamma'_\varepsilon, \gamma'_\varepsilon \rangle_{\gamma_\varepsilon(t)} \text{grad } V_\varepsilon(\gamma_\varepsilon(t))) = 0, \quad \forall t \in [0, 1], \quad (3.3)$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \langle \gamma'_\varepsilon, \gamma'_\varepsilon \rangle_{\gamma_\varepsilon(t)} (h + \varepsilon - V_\varepsilon(\gamma_\varepsilon)) = c_\varepsilon \in [\delta, M], \quad (3.4)$$

where  $0 < \delta \leq M < +\infty$  are independent of  $\varepsilon \in ]0, 1]$ .<sup>3</sup>

Let

$$s_\varepsilon(t) = \int_0^t \frac{\sqrt{c_\varepsilon}}{(h + \varepsilon - V_\varepsilon(\gamma_\varepsilon))} d\tau, \quad \forall t \in [0, 1],$$

$$t_\varepsilon(s) \text{ the inverse of } s_\varepsilon(t),$$

$$x_\varepsilon(s) = \gamma_\varepsilon(t_\varepsilon(s)).$$

It is not difficult to see that  $x_\varepsilon$  satisfies the equations

$$D_s(x'_\varepsilon(s)) + \text{grad } V_\varepsilon(x_\varepsilon(s)) = 0, \quad (3.5)$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \langle x'_\varepsilon, x'_\varepsilon \rangle_{x_\varepsilon(s)} = h + \varepsilon - V_\varepsilon(\gamma_\varepsilon), \quad \forall s \in [0, s_\varepsilon(1)],$$

<sup>2</sup> That is, there exists a critical point  $\gamma_\varepsilon$  such that  $f_\varepsilon(\gamma_\varepsilon) = c_\varepsilon$ .

<sup>3</sup> The estimate for  $c_\varepsilon$  independently of  $\varepsilon$  can be obtained as in Theorem (2.4), where the case  $V_\varepsilon = V$  is considered.

and obviously

$$x_\varepsilon(0) = x_\varepsilon(s_\varepsilon(1)) = x_0.$$

Moreover, by the definition of  $s_\varepsilon(t)$  and (3.4), we have

$$\int_0^{s_\varepsilon(1)} (h + \varepsilon - V_\varepsilon(x_\varepsilon)) ds = \sqrt{c_\varepsilon} \leq \sqrt{M}. \quad (3.6)$$

Now observe that the function

$$\varphi_\varepsilon(s) = h + \varepsilon - V_\varepsilon(x_\varepsilon(s))$$

satisfies

$$\varphi_\varepsilon''(s) = -H_{V_\varepsilon}(x_\varepsilon)(x'_\varepsilon, x'_\varepsilon) + \langle \text{grad } V_\varepsilon(x_\varepsilon(s)), \text{grad } V_\varepsilon(x_\varepsilon(s)) \rangle_{x_\varepsilon(s)} > 0$$

if  $(x_\varepsilon(s), x'_\varepsilon(s)) \in \{(B(x_0, \rho_0) \times \mathbb{R}^N) \setminus \{(x_0, 0)\}\}$ , where  $\rho_0$  is defined at (1.5). Moreover by virtue of Theorem (2.4) and the definition of  $x_\varepsilon$  we have  $x_\varepsilon(s) \neq x_0$ , while  $\text{grad } V_\varepsilon(x_0) = 0$  implies  $\varphi'_\varepsilon(0) = \varphi'_\varepsilon(s_\varepsilon(1)) = 0$ . Therefore, for every  $\rho < \rho_0$  there exist two instants  $\alpha_\varepsilon$  and  $\beta_\varepsilon$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{dist}(x_\varepsilon(\alpha_\varepsilon), x_0) &= \text{dist}(x_\varepsilon(\beta_\varepsilon), x_0) = \rho \\ \text{dist}(x_\varepsilon(\tau), x_0) &< \rho, \quad \forall \tau \in [0, \alpha_\varepsilon[, \\ \text{dist}(x_\varepsilon(\tau), x_0) &< \rho, \quad \forall \tau \in ]\beta_\varepsilon, s_\varepsilon(1)]. \end{aligned}$$

Then there exists an interval  $[a_\varepsilon, b_\varepsilon] \subset [0, s_\varepsilon(1)]$  such that

$$\text{dist}(x_\varepsilon(a_\varepsilon), x_0) = \text{dist}(x_\varepsilon(b_\varepsilon), x_0) = \rho/2, \quad (3.7)$$

$$\text{dist}(x_\varepsilon(\tau), x_0) > \rho/2, \quad \forall \tau \in [a_\varepsilon, b_\varepsilon]. \quad (3.8)$$

$$\exists \tau_\varepsilon \in [a_\varepsilon, b_\varepsilon]: \text{dist}(x_\varepsilon(\tau_\varepsilon), x_0) = \rho. \quad (3.9)$$

Note that if  $S = \sup_{x \in \mathcal{H}} (h + 1 - V(x))$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \rho/2 &\leq \text{dist}(x_\varepsilon(a_\varepsilon), x_\varepsilon(\tau_\varepsilon)) \\ &\leq \left( \int_{a_\varepsilon}^{\tau_\varepsilon} \langle x'_\varepsilon, x'_\varepsilon \rangle_{x(\tau_\varepsilon)} d\tau \right)^{1/2} \\ &= \left( \int_{a_\varepsilon}^{\tau_\varepsilon} (h + \varepsilon - V_\varepsilon(x_\varepsilon)) ds \right)^{1/2} \quad (\text{by (3.5)}) \\ &\leq \left( \int_{a_\varepsilon}^{\tau_\varepsilon} S d\tau \right)^{1/2} = ((\tau_\varepsilon - a_\varepsilon)S)^{1/2} \leq ((b_\varepsilon - a_\varepsilon)S)^{1/2}. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\inf_{\varepsilon} (b_{\varepsilon} - a_{\varepsilon}) > 0. \quad (3.10)$$

Now consider the curve

$$\tilde{x}_{\varepsilon}(t) = \begin{cases} x_{\varepsilon}(a_{\varepsilon}), & \forall t < a_{\varepsilon} \\ x_{\varepsilon}(t), & \forall t \in [a_{\varepsilon}, b_{\varepsilon}]. \\ x_{\varepsilon}(b_{\varepsilon}), & \forall t > b_{\varepsilon}. \end{cases}$$

$\tilde{x}_{\varepsilon}$  is bounded in  $H_{\text{loc}}^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^N)$ , then there exists a sequence  $\varepsilon_k \rightarrow 0$  such that  $\tilde{x}_{\varepsilon}$  converges in  $L_{\text{loc}}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R}^N)$  to a curve  $x_1 \in C^0(\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{M})$ .

Now, by (3.6),  $b_{\varepsilon} - a_{\varepsilon}$  is bounded independently of  $\varepsilon$ . Then, by (3.10), up to a translation of the parameter  $t$ , there exists a subsequence  $\varepsilon_k^1$  of  $\varepsilon_k$  such that  $a_{\varepsilon_k^1} \rightarrow a_1$ ,  $b_{\varepsilon_k^1} \rightarrow b_1$ ,  $b_1 > 0 > a_1$ .

In particular

$$x_1 \in C^2(]a_1, b_1[, \mathcal{M}),$$

$$D_t(x_1'(t)) + \text{grad } V(x_1(t)) = 0, \quad \forall t \in ]a_1, b_1[,$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \langle x_1'(t), x_1'(t) \rangle_{x_1(t)} = h - V(x_1(t)), \quad \forall t \in ]a_1, b_1[,$$

$$\text{dist}(x_1(a_1), x_0) = \text{dist}(x_1(b_1), x_0) = \rho/2,$$

$$\exists \tau_0 \in ]a_1, b_1[ : \text{dist}(x_1(\tau_0), x_0) = \rho,$$

$$\text{dist}(x_1(t), x_0) \geq \rho/2, \quad \forall t \in [a_1, b_1].$$

Analogously, we can prove the existence of an interval  $[a_2, b_2] \supset ]a_1, b_2]$  and a curve  $x_2 \in C^2(]a_2, b_2[, \mathcal{M})$  such that

$$x_2(t) = x_1(t), \quad \forall t \in [a_1, b_1],$$

$$x_2 \in C^2(]a_2, b_2[, \mathcal{M}),$$

$$D_t(x_2'(t)) + \text{grad } V(x_2(t)) = 0, \quad \forall t \in ]a_2, b_2[,$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \langle x_2'(t), x_2'(t) \rangle_{x_2(t)} = h - V(x_2(t)), \quad \forall t \in ]a_2, b_2[,$$

$$\text{dist}(x_2(a_2), x_0) = \text{dist}(x_2(b_2), x_0) = \rho/3,$$

$$\text{dist}(x_2(t), x_0) \geq \rho/3, \quad \forall t \in [a_2, b_2],$$

and so on.

Since  $\text{dist}(x_k(a_k), x_0) \xrightarrow{k} 0$  and  $\text{dist}(x_k(b_k), x_0) \xrightarrow{k} 0$  by the uniqueness of the Cauchy problem

$$D_t(x'(t)) + \text{grad } V(x(t)) = 0$$

$$x(t_0) = x_0, \quad x'(t_0) = 0,$$



we obtain  $a_k \xrightarrow{k} -\infty$  and  $b_k \xrightarrow{k} +\infty$  and  $x_k$  converges in  $C^2_{\text{loc}}$  to a curve  $x \in C^2(\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{M})$  such that

$$D_t(x'(t)) + \text{grad } V(x(t)) = 0, \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (3.11)$$

and

$$\frac{1}{2} \langle x', x' \rangle_{x(t)} = h - V(x), \quad \forall t \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (3.12)$$

Moreover by (3.6) we have

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (h - V(x)) \, ds < +\infty. \quad (3.13)$$

Then, by virtue of (3.13) and (3.12), using the same arguments of [5, Proposition (3.2)], we see that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} x(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x(t) = x_0$$

and

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow -\infty} x'(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} x'(t) = 0,$$

and this complete the proof of Theorem (1.4). ■

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We thank Professor K. Tanaka for correcting a computational mistake we made in an earlier version.

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